

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 07311 131852Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 ACDA-07 IO-13 PRS-01 /073 W

-----079705 140209Z /15

R 131815Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7098

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CZ/J-2

DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T LA PAZ 7311

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE, BL

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BANZER UNHAPPY WITH WASHINGTON MEETING

WITH PRESIDENTS PINOCHET AND MORALES

1. A SENIOR CIVILIAN OFFICIAL IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE INFORMED POL/ECOM COUNSELOR THAT PRESIDENT BANZER RETURNED TO BOLIVIA DEEPLY UNHAPPY WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS WASHINGTON MEETING WITH CHILE'S PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND PERU'S PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE MORALES BERMUDEZ WAS EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO EVEN ATTEND THE MEETING AND ONLY AFTER MUCH PERSUASION DID HE AGREE TO ATTEND AND THEN HE SAID VERY LITTLE. TWO THINGS WERE MADE CLEAR DURING THE MEETING: FIRST, PINOCHET ABSOLUTELY REFUSED TO GIVE UP CHILE'S DEMAND FOR AN EXCHANGE OF BOLIVIAN TERRITORY IN RETURN FOR GRANTING BOLIVIA A SEA OUTLET. SECONDLY, MORALES BERMUDEZ WHILE SPEAKING IN VAGUE TERMS, LEFT THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT PERU HAS NO INTENTION OF AGREEING TO A SEA OUTLET SOLUTION FOR BOLIVIA. MORALES REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT SUCH A SETTLEMENT COULD ONLY OCCUR IN A MANNER WHICH ALSO SATISFIED THE "JUST AND MORAL SENTIMENTS OF THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE WITH REGARD TO THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR OF 1879".

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 07311 131852Z

2. THE ONLY GOOD THING THAT CAME OUT OF THE MEETING, ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, IS THAT NOW THE GOB KNOWS EXACTLY WHERE CHILE AND PERU STAND. HE ADDED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT PERU'S INTENTIONS ARE PURELY BELICOSE AND THAT ONLY ITS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS PREVENT PERU FROM GOING TO WAR TO REGAIN TERRITORY LOST TO CHILE.

3. FINALLY, SOURCE, WHO IS PROBABLY PRESIDENT BANZER'S CLOSEST CIVILIAN POLITICAL ADVISOR, SAID THAT NOW SOME MEANS MUST BE FOUND OF SEPARATING PRESIDENT BANZER FROM THE APPARENTLY INSOLVEABLE SEA OUTLET ISSUE. WHILE AN EXCHANGE OF TERRITORY WITH CHILE MIGHT SEEM REASONABLE, THERE IS A STRONG SENTIMENT AGAINST THIS WITHIN THE ARMY (HE ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT THE ARMY IS ALWAYS BANZER'S OVERRIDING POLITICAL CONCERN). MOREOVER, THE CIVILIAN OPPOSITION WOULD CLAIM THAT BANZER WAS GIVING AWAY BOLIVIAN TERRITORY TO CHILE AND THIS WOULD BE VERY DAMAGING POLITICALLY, HOWEVER ILLOGICAL SUCH AN ARGUMENT MIGHT SEEM.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, BANZER INTENDS TO MEET PROMPTLY WITH HIS MAJOR POLITICAL ADVISORS TO DETERMINE SOME NEW AND POSSIBLY DRAMATIC MEANS OF SEPARATING HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE FROM THE SEA OUTLET ISSUE. OVER THE FOLLOWING FEW DAYS THE PRESIDENT INTENDS TO VISIT COCHABAMBA AND SANTA CRUZ TO TEST THE REACTIONS OF MILITARY GARRISONS THERE TO THE RESULTS OF HIS WASHINGTON MEETINGS. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, FOR THE MOMENT THE CABINET AND MILITARY HIGH COMMAND CHANGES LONG IN THE WIND WILL TAKE SECOND PLACE TO THE EFFORT TO DIVORCE BANZER FROM A LOSING CAUSE. IN FACT HE ADDED, HOW THE CABINET/MILITARY CHANGES ARE PLAYED WILL DEPEND ON THE COURSE THE PRESIDENT FOLLOWS ON THE SEA OUTLET ISSUE.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: ASSUMING THIS GOB OFFICIAL IS ACCURATELY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 07311 131852Z

REFLECTING PRESIDENT BANZER'S SENTIMENTS, IT SERVES TO UNDERSCORE THE EMOTIONALISM WITH WHICH THE SEA OUTLET ISSUE IS SEEN HERE. BANZER MAY FEEL HE OVERCOMMITTED HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE TO ACHIEVING PROGRESS ON THE SEA OUTLET PROBLEM AND NOW HE HAS TO FIND A FACE SAVING WAY TO WITHDRAW. NOR DOES HE APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT THE US OR OTHER COUNTRIES CAN HELP BOLIVIA'S CAUSE MUCH. ON HIS RETURN TO BOLIVIA ON SEPTEMBER 11, BANZER TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD NOT GONE TO WASHINGTON SEEKING A PATERNALISTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH US SINCE HE BELIEVED THAT THE THREE COUNTRIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED SHOULD SOLVE BOLIVIA'S SEA OUTLET PROBLEM. HE ALSO TERMED PRESIDENT CARTER A MAGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN PEOPLE AND A GOOD, SINCERE AND INTELLIGENT PERSON.

6. ALTHOUGH BANZER MAY BE SHARPLY DISAPPOINTED AT THE RESULTS OF HIS MEETING WITH PINOCHET AND MORALES, IT DOES NOT APPEAR AT LEAST ON THE SURFACE, THAT THIS REPRESENTS A CRITICAL PROBLEM FOR HIM. BOLIVIA'S ECONOMY REMAINS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE, THE OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES REMAIN QUIESCENT, AND THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO OTHER ORGANIZED OPPOSITION. THERE HAS BEEN PRESSURE FROM THE MID-LEVEL MILITARY TO MAKE CABINET AND HIGH COMMAND CHANGES TO PERMIT ROOM FOR PROMOTIONS (AND IN THE

CASE OF SEVERAL MINISTERS BECAUSE OF CHARGES OF
CORRUPTION) BUT THIS IS THE KIND OF ISSUE BANZER HAS
HANDLED WELL IN THE PAST. WE SUSPECT THE OFFICIAL PROVIDING
THIS INFORMATION MAY HAVE EXAGGERATED THE SEA OUTLET'S POLITICAL
RAMIFICATIONS AND WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF BANZER PERMITTED THE
ISSUE TO UNDERMINE HIS REGIME. END EMBASSY COMMENT.

7. EMBASSY WILL REPORT THE PUBLIC REACTION TO BANZER'S
WASHINGTON VISIT SEPARATELY.
SCAFE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAPAZ07311
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770332-0616
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770970/aaaachji.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 84440548-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1297810
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT BANZER UNHAPPY WITH WASHINGTON MEETING WITH PRESIDENTS PINOCHET AND MORALES
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PE, BL, (BANZER SUAREZ, HUGO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/84440548-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009